

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

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INR-10 L-03 SSO-00 INRE-00 /111 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:LHW  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GRSHERMAN  
PA/PRESS - MR. CARTER  
H - MR. FLATEN  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH  
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER  
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY  
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM  
EUR/P - MR. GEHRAN  
AF/P:MS.RUSSELL

-----013156 040156Z /73

O 032355Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
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AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
SECDEF WASHDC 0000  
JCS WASHDC 0000  
CIA WASHDC 0000  
NSC WASHDC 0000  
USICA

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 3, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAY 3. FYI ONLY,  
OFFICER PRESENT TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER.  
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MR. CARTER: THE MEN OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE  
IN LEBANON HAVE BEEN CARRYING OUT THEIR PEACE-KEEPING  
MISSION WITH SKILL, DEDICATION AND COURAGE. A NUMBER  
OF THEM HAVE BEEN KILLED, WOUNDED OR INJURED IN VARIOUS  
INCIDENTS. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THE U.N. FORCES HAVE BEEN  
CHALLENGED MORE SHARPLY BY HOSTILE ELEMENTS IN SOUTHERN  
LEBANON AND MORE MEN OF THE U.N.HAVE DIED OR HAVE BEEN  
WOUNDED.

THE UNITED STATES CONDEMNS THESE ATTACKS ON THE U.N.  
FORCE WHICH IS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON TO RESTORE STABILITY AND  
TO KEEP THE PEACE. EVERYONE IN A POSITION TO BRING THE  
IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS TO ACCOUNT SHOULD DO SO WITHOUT  
DELAY.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES ARE EXTENDED TO THE GOVERNMENTS  
WHICH HAVE CONTRIBUTED TROOPS TO THIS IMPORTANT MISSION  
AND TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO WERE KILLED AND INJURED.

Q. WHO ARE THE IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS?

A. THE ATTACKS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED BY LEBANESE LEFTISTS AND VARIOUS GROUPS OF PALESTINIAN EXTREMISTS, SOME OR MAYBE ALL CONNECTED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WITH THE PLO--WHICH I WILL, OF COURSE, REPEAT, IS A FAIRLY LOOSE UMBRELLA FOR A NUMBER OF SUB-GROUPINGS.

Q. WHAT IS THE TOTAL KILLED?

A. I WOULD RATHER NOT BE HELD AS A FINAL BIBLE ON THIS, BUT THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE:

FROM THE 2ND OF MAY THREE FRENCH, A WEEK AGO ONE FRENCHMAN, FOR A TOTAL OF FOUR. ON THE 1ST OF MAY THREE SENEGALESE. ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO ONE SWEDE AND ALMOST INITIALLY ONE UNCLASSIFIED

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NORWEGIAN. I DON'T HAVE THE INJURY LIST.

Q. IF THIS GOES ON AND THERE ARE MORE CASUALTIES, IS THERE ANY THOUGHT OF EITHER SENDING IN MORE TROOPS OR GIVING THEM BETTER ARMS?

A. I HESITATE TO SPEAK FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL, BUT IN ANY CASE IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS IS RECEIVING VERY SERIOUS ATTENTION FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND FROM THE MILITARY COMMANDER IN THE FIELD AS TO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF THE U.N. FORCES AND TO DEAL WITH THIS KIND OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY.

Q. HAVE THE LEBANESE ASKED FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SYRIAN ARMY MIGHT MOVE SOUTH TO MOP UP THESE PEOPLE?

A. NO.

Q. I CHECKED AND IT IS TRUE THE LEBANESE EMBASSY DOES SAY THAT THE SYRIANS ARE THERE AND AT THEIR PLEASURE. WHY DON'T THEY ASK THE SYRIANS TO COME IN AND HELP THE U.N. TROOPS CONTROL THESE KILLERS?

A. THEY ARE NOT PART OF THE U.N. PEACEKEEPING FORCE; AND THE THREE-PART MISSION OF THE RESOLUTION IS, OF COURSE, FOR THE U.N. FORCE TO BE THERE, FOR THE LEBANESE FORCES TO COME IN AND ASSERT THEIR CONTROL AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND FOR THE ISRAELIS TO WITHDRAW.

Q. IS ANY THOUGHT BEING GIVEN TO MAYBE THE ISRAELIS SHOULD SLOW DOWN THEIR PULL-OUT?

A. I HAVE SEEN NO SUCH INDICATION WHATSOEVER.  
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Q. IS THERE ANY CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PARTICIPATING IN TO TRY TO INDUCE NATIONS WHICH SUPPORT THE PLO TO BRING LEVERAGE TO BEAR ON THE SITUATION?

A. I AM NOT SURE WHAT OUR DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS ARE. I AM SURE, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE DOING WHAT WE CAN AND ARE IN CONSULTATIONS WITH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q. HAVE THE SAUDI ARABIANS DONE ANYTHING? THEY SEEM TO BE A PRINCIPLE FINANCING AGENCY OF THE PLO. HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT ASKED THE SAUDI ARABIANS TO ASK THE PLO TO STOP KILLING THE U.N. TROOPS?

A. THE POSITION OF THE SAUDI ARABIANS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLO IS NOT IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR TERRORIST OPERATIONS, AS WE HAVE GONE THROUGH BEFORE. I AM NOT AWARE, IN ANY CASE, OF THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION.

Q. BY FINANCE WHAT YOU MEAN IS THEY ARE ONLY FINANCING FOR HUMANE PURPOSES--HOSPITALIZATION, SCHOOLING AND THAT SORT OF THING OR WHAT?

A. THEY HAVE INDICATED THAT IS WHAT THEIR FUNDS GO FOR.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES SATISFIED WITH THE PACE OF THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL?

A. WE ARE IN FAVOR OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTION 425 AND AMONG THOSE CALLS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS. WE NOTICE THEY ARE IN THE THIRD PHASE OF THAT. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEY ARE GOING TO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO THAT RESOLUTION.

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Q. ARE THERE ANY LEBANESE FORCES ACTUALLY WHO HAVE MOVED IN IN PLACE--ANY MILITIA OR REGULAR ARMY THAT ARE THERE?

A. I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q. AND IS 6,000 THE TARGET FIGURE THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND USUN ARE CONSIDERING NOW?

A. I WILL TAKE THAT ONE TOO. I AM NOT SURE OF THE EXACT FIGURE.

Q. I AM PUZZLED HERE BY THE ATTRIBUTION OF THE APPARENT RESPONSIBILITY. YOU SAY THE ATTACKS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED BY LEBANESE LEFTISTS AND BY VARIOUS GROUPS OF PALESTINIAN EXTREMISTS. CAN YOU SORT THAT OUT ANY MORE?

A. NO. THE PROBLEM IS, OF COURSE, THAT MUCH OF THE ATTACK THAT IS TAKING PLACE--FOR INSTANCE, MINES KILLED THE SENE- GALESE--IS VERY DIFFICULT TO PINPOINT EXACTLY. THE EN- COUNTER THAT TOOK PLACE WITH THE FRENCH APPARENTLY DID TAKE PLACE WITH PALESTINIANS. BUT FOR US TO IDENTIFY IN A FIRE FIGHT PRECISELY WHO THEY ARE IS A LITTLE DIFFICULT. WE HAVE TO GO TO OTHER SOURCES FOR THAT.

Q. YOU JUST SAID THAT THOSE IN A POSITION TO BRING THOSE PEOPLE TO ACCOUNT SHOULD DO SO WITHOUT DELAY. WHO CAN DO THAT?

A. THERE ARE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS WHICH PURPORT TO SPEAK FOR SOME OF THE FORCES IN THE FIELD AND WHO ARE ARMED MEN IN THE FIELD, SOME OF WHOM WE HAVE IDENTIFIED. I THINK THAT WILL SPEAK FOR ITSELF.

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Q. IS IT OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ANY ELEMENTS OF THE PLO HAVE ACCEPTED A CEASE-FIRE?

A. I DON'T WANT TO PULL THAT OUT OF MY HEAD. IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THE UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION HAS SUPPOSEDLY ACCEPTED IT. BUT LET ME CHECK THAT AND I WILL GET YOU AN ANSWER.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMPARABLE INFORMATION THERE? IT JUST STRIKES ME OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE HEAVIEST NUMBER OF CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON AN UN FORCE IN THAT PERIOD OF TIME.

A. MORE SO THAN IN CYPRUS? I DON'T KNOW.

Q. THE SHORT PERIOD OF TIME?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I WILL SEE IF THERE ARE COMPARABLE FIGURES THAT THEY CAN PULL OUT OF NEW YORK.

Q. MR. BEGIN IS MAKING SPEECHES AROUND THE COUNTRY AP- PARENTLY IN WHICH HE IS RESTATING HIS OPPOSITION TO THE

SALE OF PLANES TO SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT. I AM WONDERING

IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE SPEECH MAKING AND SPECIFICALLY WHETHER THIS IS CONSIDERED OR THIS MIGHT VERGE ON INTERFERENCE IN WHAT YOU CONSIDER A DOMESTIC AFFAIR.

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT.

Q. HOW ABOUT THE SECOND PART?

A. NO. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT. THE POSITION OF ISRAEL IS WELL KNOWN. THE POSITION OF OTHER PARTIES IS WELL KNOWN ON THE SALE. THEY HAVE INDICATED THEIR POSITIONS PUBLICLY, NOT JUST ISRAEL BUT SAUDI ARABIA AND UNCLASSIFIED

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EGYPT, AND THEY ARE EXPRESSING THEIR CONCERNS AND WISHES.

Q. WELL, DO YOU CONSIDER THIS PART OF DIPLOMACY FOR A FOREIGN LEADER TO MAKE SPEECHES IN THE COUNTRY OPPOSING THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES?

A. I WOULD SAY THAT I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE SPEECHES MR. BEGIN OR ANYONE ELSE MIGHT BE MAKING HERE. I WOULD OBSERVE THAT WE COMMENT FROM TIME TO TIME ON OUR INTEREST IN MATTERS AFFECTING A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES.

Q. DID YOU GET ANY REACTION YESTERDAY TO THE REMARKS BEGIN IS SAID TO HAVE MADE ON A PLANE TO ISRAELI REPORTERS ABOUT AGREEMENT HAVING BEEN REACHED ON AN ISRAELI MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE WEST BANK AND THAT THE IDEA OF A REFERENDUM HAS BEEN DROPPED?

A. NO, I CAN'T SPEAK FOR WHAT MR. BEGIN IS SAYING. I WOULD SIMPLY NOTE THAT THE PRESIDENT STATED OUR POSITION ON THIS MATTER ON MARCH 9, 1977, IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, AND THAT REMAINS OUR POSITION. HE INDICATED THEN THAT REMAINS OUR POSITION. HE INDICATED THEN THAT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND FINAL BOUNDARIES, TOGETHER WITH SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, WOULD HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

THE PRESIDENT ALSO INDICATED THEN THAT IF THE PARTIES AGREED, THE SECURITY LINES WOULD NOT NECESSARILY COINCIDE WITH THE BOUNDARIES OF ISRAEL.

BUT THE CRITICAL POINT HERE IN OUR POSITION IS THAT THE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS HAVE GOT TO BE WORKED OUT IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

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Q. WELL, ARE YOU SAYING, THEN, THAT MR. BEGIN WAS IN-  
ACCURATE IN REFERRING TO AN AGREEMENT HAVING BEEN REACHED?

A. I WOULD SAY THAT AN ACCURATE SUMMARY IS THAT THERE ARE  
NO FINAL AGREEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN REACHED ON ANY SUBJECT.  
A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. A NUMBER OF  
ALTERNATIVES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. AS WE HAVE SAID, WE  
HAVE ASKED SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR POSITIONS, AND WE  
HAVE ASKED SOME QUESTIONS IN CAIRO. AND WE ARE AWAITING  
ANSWERS TO THOSE.

I ALSO WOULD POINT TO LATER STORIES, IN ANY CASE, IN WHICH  
MR. BEGIN IS QUOTED AS SAYING THINGS NOT QUITE AS FORTH-  
COMING OR OPTIMISTIC ABOUT WHAT WAS A RESULT OF SOME OF  
THE DISCUSSIONS.

Q. YOU SAY THERE HAS BEEN NO FINAL AGREEMENT REACHED?

A. NO. I DON'T MEAN TO USE THE WORD "FINAL" TO SUGGEST  
INTERIM AGREEMENTS. I JUST MEAN THAT IN ANY CASE WHAT IS  
CRITICAL HERE IS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES THEM-  
SELVES.

Q. HOW DOES SADAT'S MAY DAY SPEECH FIT INTO THE WHOLE  
PICTURE? DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ABOUT THAT?

A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT. I THINK HE WAS  
MAKING A SPEECH TO HIS PEOPLE, AND I HAVE NO PARTICULAR  
COMMENT ON THAT AT ALL.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT REMARKS BY SECRETARY AT SECOND  
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOLLOWING CINCINNATI MAY 1  
SPEECH (HIS REMARKS DURING FIRST SESSION REPORTED FULLY IN  
STATE 111526--NOTAL):

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Q.(INAUDIBLE)

A. WE ARE EXPLORING THE VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES THAT IT  
MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO GET MOMENTUM GOING AGAIN IN THE PEACE  
TALKS. BOTH OF US WILL BE REFLECTING ON THE EXCHANGE OF  
VIEWS AND WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER AS WE WILL WITH  
THE EGYPTIANS.

Q. YOU SAID IN THE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION ON FRIDAY THAT THE TALKS IN THE MIDDLE EAST ARE NOW AT A STALEMATE.

A. THEY HAVE BEEN.

Q. CAN YOU ELABORATE ON THAT?

A. WELL, THERE HAS BEEN A LACK OF CONVERSATION DIRECTLY BETWEEN THE EGYPTIANS AND THE ISRAELIS FOR A PERIOD OF WEEKS NOW AND AS A RESULT OF THAT I THINK IT IS NECESSARY TO FIND SOME WAY TO GET THE MOMENTUM GOING AGAIN SO THAT WE CAN GET THE TALKS OFF DEAD CENTER. THAT IS WHY WE'RE IN CONSULTATION WITH EACH OTHER TO SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TO MOVE FORWARD AND I'M HOPEFUL THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE THAT.

Q. DO YOU THINK THAT THIS IS THE TIME FOR THE U.S. TO STEP IN TO TRY AND PRY THE TALKS?

A. YES, I THINK THAT THIS IS A TIME WE CAN BE HELPFUL IN PRYING LOOSE THE TALKS. THAT HAS BEEN OUR FEELING IN THE PAST. IF THE PARTIES CAN MAKE PROGRESS TALKING TO EACH OTHER--FINE. THAT'S THE WAY ONE SHOULD. IF OUR HELP IS NEEDED, WE WILL GIVE IT A STIMULUS. AND WE'RE GLAD TO DO THAT.

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Q. HOW MUCH OF A STRAIN ON THE MIDEAST SITUATION HAS MR. BEGIN'S OBJECTIONS TO THE ARMS PROPOSALS BEEN?

A. ON THE ARMS PROPOSALS, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT ANY CLEARER THAN I'VE SAID IT ON MANY OCCASIONS THAT I BELIEVE THAT IT IS VERY MUCH IN THE INTERESTS OF THE SEARCH FOR PEACE THAT ALL OF THESE PROPOSALS BE APPROVED. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF ENGENDERING CONFIDENCE IN ALL OF THE THREE COUNTRIES INVOLVED THAT WE GO FORWARD AND MEET COMMITMENTS WHICH

WE HAVE MADE TO THEM. I THINK THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THROUGH THESE VARIOUS PROPOSALS TO MEET THE BASIC MILITARY NEED OF THESE COUNTRIES AND AT THE SAME TIME STIMULATE THE PEACE PROCESS BECAUSE I THINK PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE WILLING TO TAKE THE RISKS THAT ONE HAS TO TAKE WHEN YOU ARE NEGOTIATING PEACE IF THEY FEEL SECURE THAT THEY CAN MEET THEIR PROBLEMS, THEIR SECURITY PROBLEMS.

Q. YOU DON'T FEEL THAT IS A CONTRADICTION--ARMS FOR PEACE?

A. NO, I DO NOT.



Q. CAN YOU ELABORATE ON THAT POINT?

A. SURE. THERE ARE CERTAIN MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS THAT A COUNTRY HAS TO DEAL WITH IN TERMS OF ITS SECURITY. NOW, IF YOU CAN KEEP THE BASIC BALANCE IN THE REGION SO THAT IS NOT CHANGED, IF YOU CAN THEN STIMULATE THAT CONFIDENCE WHICH WILL GIVE THEM THE WILLINGNESS TO TAKE AN EXTRA RISK FOR PEACE, THEN I THINK CLEARLY THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION BUT IN FACT A LITTLE REINFORCEMENT.

Q. SPEAKING OF BALANCE, IN SOUTH YEMEN, I UNDERSTAND THE COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN HEAVILY SUPPLYING THAT COUNTRY. DO YOU SEE THE SUPPLYING OF SAUDI ARABIA WITH THE F-15S AS A UNCLASSIFIED

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MOVEMENT TO BALANCE OR COUNTER-BALANCE THE SOVIET ACTION? OR DO YOU SEE IT AS TRYING TO RETAIN FRIENDSHIP? OR DO YOU SEE IT AS TRYING TO PREVENT A COUNTRY WHICH FACES OTHER INSTABILITIES IN THE AREA FROM TURNING TO OTHER HOSTILE SUPPLIERS OF ARMS?

A. WELL, LET ME ANSWER IT--SEVERAL ANSWERS. FIRST OF ALL, I THINK THE BASIC THREAT THAT THE SAUDIS FEAR IS NOT A THREAT FROM ISRAEL. THEIR CONCERNS ARE BASICALLY THE DANGERS THAT THEY SEE FROM THEIR ARAB NEIGHBORS--TO THE NORTH, ESPECIALLY IRAQ; THE CONCERNS THAT THEY HAVE IN THE SOUTH. THEY HAVE HAD THREE BORDER INCURSIONS FROM SOUTH YEMEN IN THE PAST. THIS IS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO THEM. THEY HAVE A COUNTRY WHICH IS VAST. IT IS THE EQUIVALENT OF THE LAND AREA FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE MISSISSIPPI. THEY HAVE VERY FEW PEOPLE TO MAN THEIR AIRCRAFT. THEREFORE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THEY HAVE THE KIND OF AN AIRCRAFT SYSTEM THAT CAN GIVE THEM THE DEFENSE CAPABILITY WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE VAST NUMBERS OF PEOPLE. AND THE F-15 IS EXACTLY THAT KIND OF AIRPLANE.

IT IS OBVIOUSLY A VERY IMPORTANT COUNTRY BECAUSE IT IS ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE MODERATE GROUP IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AND I THINK THAT IT IS IN OUR INTERESTS AND IN THE INTERESTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST THAT WE SHOULD HELP OUR FRIENDS WHO ARE MODERATES IN THAT AREA. THAT IS GOING TO HELP IN THE PEACE PROCESS. IF YOU LOOK DOWN THE ROAD, WHAT KIND OF WORLD WOULD WE ALL LIKE TO SEE AT THE END OF FIVE TO TEN YEARS FROM NOW? WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A WORLD PEACE WHERE ISRAEL COULD BE LIVING WITHIN SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES, WHERE THE OTHER MODERATE NATIONS AGAIN ALSO WOULD BE LIVING IN PEACE, AND SECURE. AND I THINK THE KIND OF STEPS THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HERE WOULD LEAD US TO THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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END--WOULD LEAD THE WAY.

3. SECRETARY ALSO MADE NOTEWORTHY COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST TOPIC ON DEPARTURE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA AS FOLLOW:

Q. DO YOU MIND IF WE GO BEYOND JAPAN AND ASK YOU, SIR, IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON THE REMARKS OF SAUDI ARABIAN OIL MINISTER YAMANI WHICH APPEAR TO LINK THE F-15 SALE WITH SUPPORT FOR THE DOLLAR AND OIL FOR THE U.S.?

A. WELL, I HAVE'T SEEN EXACTLY WHAT HE HAD TO SAY ON THAT. I'VE HEARD REPORTS OF WHAT HE WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE SAID, BUT I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK AT IT MYSELF.

Q. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN GIVEN ANY INDICATIONS BY THE SAUDIS THAT THEY ARE, IN FACT, LINKING THE F-15 SALE WITH THEIR SUPPLY OF OIL TO THE UNITED STATES?

A. NO. I HAVE NEVER BEEN GIVEN THAT IMPRESSION BY THEM --QUITE THE CONTRARY.

Q. ARE YOU --

A. QUITE THE CONTRARY.

Q. THEY ARE NOT LINKING?

A. YES.

Q. DO YOU FEEL THAT THIS REPORT COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT, HOWEVER, ON THE CONGRESS?

A. WELL, IT'S AWFULLY HARD TO GUESS--ANY KIND OF A STATEMENT COULD BE MADE. I'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE STATEMENT ITSELF--BECAUSE I REALLY HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE  
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TO LOOK AT IT--AND SEE EXACTLY WHAT WAS SAID. BUT I COME BACK AND STRESS--I THINK THAT THE SALES ON ITS OWN TWO FEET IS OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE FOR THE MANY REASONS WHICH I HAVE GONE INTO TIME AND TIME AGAIN.  
CHRISTOPHER

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